

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in § 944.350.

[58 FR 39430, July 23, 1993 as amended at 58 FR 59934, Nov. 12, 1993; 58 FR 69185, Dec. 30, 1993; 59 FR 56380, Nov. 14, 1994; 60 FR 58499, Nov. 28, 1995; 61 FR 64253, Dec. 4, 1996; 63 FR 62923, Nov. 10, 1998; 64 FR 58762, Nov. 1, 1999; 66 FR 229, Jan. 3, 2001; 68 FR 53024, Sept. 10, 2003]

§ 944.312 Orange import regulation.

(a) Pursuant to section 8e (7 U.S.C. 608e-1) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C 601-674), and part 944—Fruits; Import Regulations, the importation into the United States of any oranges is prohibited unless such oranges grade at least U.S. No. 2, and they are at least $2\frac{9}{16}$ inches in diameter. Effective July 1 through August 31 of each year this paragraph is suspended.

(b) The term *oranges* is defined as *Citrus sinensis*, Osbeck.

(c) The term *importation* means release from custody of the United States Customs Service. The term *processing* means the manufacture of any orange product which has been converted into sectioned fruit or into fresh juice, or preserved by any commercial process, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, drying, and the addition of chemical substances, or by fermentation.

(d) Terms and tolerances pertaining to grade and size requirements, which are defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Oranges (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona) (7 CFR 51.680-51.714), shall be applicable herein.

(e) Any person may import up to 400 pounds a day of oranges exempt from the requirements specified in this section.

(f) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is designated as the governmental inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of oranges imported into the United States. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective service, applicable to

the particular shipment of oranges, is required on all such imports. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Products (7 CFR part 51), and in accordance with the regulation designating inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(g) Any oranges which fail to meet the import requirements, and are not being imported for purposes of consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or processing into products; prior to or after reconditioning may be exported or disposed of under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of such oranges borne by the importer.

(h) The grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to oranges imported for consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or processing into products, but shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in § 944.350, *Provided that*: oranges, imported as exempt under this regulation, cannot be shipped to processors who have facilities, equipment, or outlets to repack or sell fruit in fresh form.

(i) The Secretary has determined that oranges imported into the United States are in most direct competition with oranges grown in Texas regulated under Marketing Order No. 906.

[59 FR 25792, May 18, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 33679, June 29, 1995; 61 FR 13059, Mar. 26, 1996]

§ 944.350 Safeguard procedures for avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, olives, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes, exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.

(a) Each person who imports:

(1) Avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, limes, olives, oranges, and prune variety plums (fresh prunes) for consumption by charitable institutions or distribution by relief agencies;

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(2) Avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes for processing;

(3) Olives for processing into oil;

(4) Grapefruit for animal feed; or

(5) Avocados for seed shall obtain an "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" (FV-6 form) from the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, and shall show the completed "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" to the U.S. Customs Service Regional Director or District Director, as applicable, at the port at which the customs entry is filed. One copy shall be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA with a postmark no later than two days after the date of importation and a third copy shall accompany the lot to the exempt outlet specified on the form. Any lot offered for inspection and, all or a portion thereof, subsequently imported as exempt under this provision shall be reported on an "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" and such form, accompanied by a copy of the applicable inspection certificate, shall be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch.

(b) Each person who receives an exempt commodity for the purposes specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall also receive a copy of the same numbered Importer's Exempt Commodity Form filed by the importer or customs broker and shall certify, by completing and signing Section II of the form and mailing the form to the Marketing Order Administration Branch within two days of receipt of the exempt lot, that such lot has been received and will be utilized in the exempt outlet.

(c) It is the responsibility of the importer to notify the Marketing Order Administration Branch of any lot of exempt commodity rejected by a receiver, shipped to an alternative exempt receiver, exported, or otherwise destroyed. In such cases, a second "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" must be filed by the importer providing sufficient information to determine ultimate disposition of the exempt lot and such disposition shall be so certified by the final receiver.

(d) All FV-6 forms and other correspondence regarding entry of 8e commodities must be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, USDA, AMS, P.O. Box 96456, room 2523-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202)-720-4607. FV-6 forms submitted by fax must be followed by a mailed, original copy of the FV-6 form. Fax transmissions may be sent to the MOAB at (202) 720-5698.

[61 FR 13059, Mar. 26, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 40958, Aug. 7, 1996; 68 FR 10346, Mar. 5, 2003]

§ 944.400 Designated inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification of imported avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes regulated under section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended.

(a) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture is hereby designated as the governmental inspection service for the purpose of certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of avocados, grapefruit, nectarines, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes that are imported into the United States. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is also designated as a governmental inspection service for the purpose of certifying grade, size, quality and maturity of prune variety plums (fresh prunes) only. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service or the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, with appropriate evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective services, applicable to the particular shipment of the specified fruit, is required on all imports. Inspection and certification by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will be available upon application in accordance with the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification and Standards for Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Products (7 CFR part 51) but, since inspectors are not located in the immediate vicinity of some of the small ports of entry, such